(i) The quantum of actual production *vis-a-vis* actual cost.

(ii) Different Margin of Net Cash Flow of a company from different blocks/contract areas.

(iii) Interrelationship between the IRR of different companies.

IRR of each and individual company depends on many internal and external factors, *viz.*, resource mobilization, financing & funding of the projects, efficiency in project management, use of technology, economic stability, political situation and so on. Therefore, IRR of a particular company cannot be compared with that of other company in the same business.

Trilateral talks for Indo-Pak-Iran gas pipeline project

255. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there has been a slow-down in the talk on implementation of Indo-Pak-Iran gas pipeline project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India had not participated in the trilateral talks held in Iran during September-October, 2007 this year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline. Various important issues are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests as also to avoid any future probelms in the successful operation of the project.

Iran proposed to hold the Seventh Trilaterl Meeting in Tehran during last week of September 2007. India informed that it would be appropriate for the bilateral meeting between India and Pakistan to precede the trilateral meeting, as certain bilateral issues, such as transportation tariff and transit fee, needed to be resolved first. India and Pakistan also needed to finalize their response to the demand of Iran to introduce a fresh price revision clause. However, Iran and Pakistan reportedly had a bilateral meeting. A meeting between India and Pakitan on the IPI project is being proposed soon.

Blending of ethanol with petrol

†256. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that it has been decided to sell 10 per cent ethanol mixed petrol in the country from October, 2008;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the previous decision of selling 5 per cent ethanol mixed petrol is still not being implemented in the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided that 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme be made mandatory across the country except North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. It has also been proposed to make 10% Ethanol blending optional.

(c) and (d) The previous decision of the Government to sell 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme, subject to commercial viability as per Bureau of Indian Standards specifications, is being implemented in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

The high rates of taxes/levies imposed by some States and cumbersome procedures have affected the implementation of EBP programme in other States.

Sale of ethanol mixed petrol

†257. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sale of ethanol mixed petrol has been started in the country;

(b) if so, the plan formulated by Government to make further development of the ethanol mixed programme; and

(c) whether farmers in the country have been informed about ethanol mixed programme so that the sugarcane producing farmers may improve their economic condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* its notification dated 20th September, 2006 has directed the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to sell 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) subject to commercial viability as per Bureau of Indian Standards specifications in the entire country except North-Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep with effect from 1st November, 2006.

Further the Government has decided that 5% EBP programme be made mandatory across the country except North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. It has also been proposed to make 10% Ethanol blending optional.

(c) Adequate publicity is given regarding EBP programme.

Quantum of dividend in crude oil refineries

†258. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dividend per barrel in crude oil refineries in the country is upto $13.6;

(b) if not, the average quantum of dividend in first half of the current financial year in the public and private sector oil refineries; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.